

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON OPERATION OF HOPPER DREDGES
IN THE FREEPORT HARBOR CHANNEL PROJECT

JULY 2001 – AUGUST 2001

On July 23, 2001 the contract hopper dredge *Eagle I* began work on the Entrance and Jetty Channels of the Freeport Harbor Project. Contract specifications required dredging an estimated 1,546,000 cubic yards (CY) of shoal material. The required depth of dredging was 49 feet below Mean Low Tide (MLT, Corps of Engineers Datum), with 2 feet of allowable overdepth dredging along the Entrance Channel and 47 feet MLT with 2 feet of overdepth along the Jetty Channel.

Dredging began on July 23, 2001, and was completed on August 26, 2001. A total of 862 loads of dredged material were collected and deposited into Placement Area No. 1-A. Dredging was performed between Stations 71+52.58 along the Jetty Channel and (-)140+00 along the Outer Bar Channel. A total of 2,479,249 CY of material were excavated from this project.

The dredge was equipped with rigid draghead turtle deflectors, and 100% inflow screening with a 4-inch square mesh. NMFS-approved turtle observers provided 24-hour/day monitoring of dragheads and screens for each load cycle. The observers were employed by Coastwise Consulting, Inc. under a subcontract to the dredging contractor, Bean Horizon Corp./Stuyvesant Dredging Co. (Joint Venture).

During the performance of this dredging, no lethal turtle takes were experienced. The water temperature ranged from 28°C – 31.5°C at both the surface, and below mid-depth. The water temperature at both of these depths were identical throughout the duration of dredging. A copy of the daily and weekly observer reports is enclosed.